

NCA
VOC FOR IOP/FN
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JAPANESE COMMUNIST IDEOLOGICAL REFORMS

ANNCR:

THE JAPANESE COMMUNIST PARTY -- WHICH IS MAKING PLANS FOR ITS THIRTEENTH PARTY CONGRESS LATER THIS YEAR -- HAS APPARENTLY DISCARDED SOME IDEOLOGY GENERALLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE MOST DOCTRINAIRE COMMUNIST PROGRAMS. VOA'S JOSEPH KUN HAS THIS BACKGROUND REPORT.

VOICE:

AS PART OF THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE FORTHCOMING PARTY CONGRESS, JAPANESE COMMUNIST LEADERS HAVE RECENTLY HELD TALKS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER COMMUNIST PARTIES, INCLUDING SOME FROM WESTERN EUROPE. ONE SUCH OCCASION WAS A MEETING LAST MONTH BETWEEN JCP LEADER KENJI MIYAMOTO AND FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY CHIEF GEORGES MARCHAIS. MISTER MIYAMOTO TOLD A TOKYO NEWS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING THE MEETING THAT HIS PARTY WAS READY TO SCRAP SUCH TIME-HONORED COMMUNIST SLOGANS AS THE "DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT" AND WAS PLANNING TO REPLACE THE PHRASE "MARXISM-LENINISM" WITH THE MORE UP-TO-DATE SOUNDING EXPRESSION "SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM."

OBSERVERS BELIEVE THE SEMANTIC REFORMS REFERRED TO BY MISTER MIYAMOTO MIRROR AN EFFORT BY THE JAPANESE COMMUNIST PARTY TO MODERNIZE ITS DOCTRINE AND, IN THE PROCESS, TO IMPROVE ITS IMAGE AMONG OTHER JAPANESE OPPOSITION PARTIES, PARTICULARLY THE JAPANESE SOCIALIST PARTY. INDEED, THE JCP IN RECENT MONTHS HAS PRESSED FOR THE FORMATION OF A UNITED FRONT WITH THE JAPANESE SOCIALISTS TO CHALLENGE THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S LONG-STANDING DOMINATION OF JAPANESE POLITICAL LIFE.

THE RECENT POLICY STATEMENTS OF JAPANESE COMMUNIST LEADERS ALSO INDICATE UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT FOR POLICIES HEWED TO BY COMMUNIST PARTIES IN WESTERN EUROPE. THE JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED AFTER THE MARCHAIS-MIYAHOTO MEETING, FOR EXAMPLE, STRESSED WHAT WAS TERMED "DEMOCRATIC CHANGES" IN THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT AND THE FORMATION OF A "DEMOCRATIC COALITION GOVERNMENT" WITH THE SOCIALIST FORCES OF THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES. THE JOINT STATEMENT ALSO PLEDGED THE JAPANESE AND FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTIES TO PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS, TO RESPECT THE RESULTS OF POPULATION ELECTIONS, AND TO MAINTAIN A MULTI-PARTY SYSTEM. THE TWO PARTIES ALSO PROPOSED NOT TO IMPOSE MARXISM-LENINISM AS A STATE IDEOLOGY AND TO RESPECT FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND THOUGHT.

OBSERVERS SEE RECENT MOVES BY THE JAPANESE COMMUNIST PARTY AS A CLEAR ATTEMPT TO BROADEN POPULAR SUPPORT AND GAIN INCREASED RESPECTABILITY AMONG JAPANESE OPPOSITION PARTIES. IN THIS EFFORT, THE JCP HAS ALSO ATTEMPTED TO DEMONSTRATE IT'S INDEPENDENCE FROM OUTSIDE INFLUENCE, PARTICULARLY FROM CHINA AND THE SOVIET UNION. AND THIS STANCE HAS ADDED STRAINS IN PARTY RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET AND CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTIES. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, THE JCP HAS MAINTAINED FRIENDLY CONTACTS WITH THE INDEPENDENT-MINDED ROMANIAN, NORTH KOREAN AND NORTH VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST PARTIES.

JS/PY